The average price of soft white wheat in Portland for May was $4.76 per bushel with club averaging $6.26. Barley for the same period averaged $142.00 per ton. These prices come from the USDA Market News Service. They do not report prices for periods when only one bidder is buying, to protect the proprietary price from competitors. On the months when no quote is available, we use the local price plus freight to determine where the Portland price sits. Last month, we saw a sharp increase in the price as evidently there were multiple buyers seeking a portion of the limited barley supply.

Soft white wheat averaged $4.91 per bushel for the year, exactly half what it averaged in 2007-08. Barley averaged $129.23 for the grain marketing year ending May 31.

Precipitation for May at the Sherman Station was 1.34 inches, exceeding the long term average by .55 inches. That is significant. Crop year precip at the Station totals 1.76 inches above the expected average and May’s evaporation was 1.26 below normal as well.

**Million Dollar Rains**

You may have seen this before, but it bears repeating. The moisture we’ve received this year is doing us a lot of good. Of course quantity is important but we also benefit from the timing of rains.

Research has shown how much grain yield one can expect from each inch of rain. For example:

- Each inch of rain received from September through March will make you about 3.8 bushels.
- An inch of rain in April may cost you .1 bushel. At this time with warming temperatures the plant wants to grow and cooler air temps combined with wetter soils may restrict the plant as it tries to hit growth mode. Wetter soils are cooler, which can impede root development and excessively wet soils can also be depleted of available oxygen.
- Each inch of rain in May should increase yields 5.6 bushels.
- And in June, these rains are known as the “Million Dollar Rains” as each inch of rain produces an additional 11.6 bushels. Of course “million dollar rains” in June may have an entirely different meaning for the cherry growers….

An inch of rain is significant. An inch of rain over an acre is equivalent to 27,152 gallons or enough water to fill a storage tank 21 feet in diameter and 10 feet deep. Over a 640 acre section, that’s nearly 17.4 million gallons of water.
Million Dollar Rains...continued

If you think back on these numbers and look at our crops over the last 20 years, we’ve experienced more years with far less than average precipitation, but with average or above average yields. Why? Simply because of the timing of those rains; it’s come when the plant is making seed and kept us afloat. (No pun intended)

We have also had years when we had high expectations because we’ve had high precipitation totals but average or below yields because offsetting the moisture has been a week of extreme hot weather in may that drastically impedes the plant’s yield making ability. This can be more hit and miss by field due to seeding date, variety and maturity stage of development of the wheat when overheated. Things are looking very promising at this time, but we’ll all feel better when it’s in the bin.

Sherman Station 100th

Actually, the Sherman Experiment Station was established in 1909 and is the second oldest Experiment Station in Oregon (barely beat out by the Union Livestock Station). But Sherman is the oldest Station dedicated to crops and cropping systems. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the first Field Day at the Station.

So big plans are in order for the special Field Day Wednesday June 16 in Moro beginning at 8 am. Over 100 varieties of wheat from the last century have been planted and will be on display. There’s also over 40 different alternate crops that have been tested at the Station over the years. You’d be amazed at how old some today’s “new” crops are in testing. And while you know how most turned out, there is actually one that when included in the rotation, always ranked as the highest income generating crop system. It’s planted and will be on display.

The whole program will focus strictly on the history, where we’ve been, where we are and where we’re moving. In addition to seeing many of these heritage varieties, Andrew Ross and his wife are baking some breads and cookies, from these heritage varieties so you can compare the quality of our grain products over the years. Ross runs the test lab/kitchen at OSU that tests and rates all the new varieties for quality issues. Working with cereal breeders over the years, his testing has eliminated some varieties that just couldn’t produce a good end product and they’ve speeded up the increase and release of those that score high.

Dr Bill Schillinger will kick things off at the Sherman High School at 8 am. Schillinger runs the WSU Experiment Station at Lind and recently published a 125 year history of dryland farming and how things have changed. He did a bulk of his graduate research work at the Sherman Station (as have so many through the years), so this will be a homecoming for him.

Ernie Moore will share updates on the Station’s Endowment Fund. This fund began when state budget cuts threatened the existence of the Sherman Station and support from the individuals and the industry saved it. That same fund is saving the station again as the state experiences another economic disaster.

The award winning Sherman County Museum is scheduled for a short visit that morning and has announced it will wave admission fees all day long so if you don’t get enough time in the morning you can return after the luncheon at the High School prepared by Rod McGuire and Paradise Rose Catering.

Of course there will also be comments from key folks: OSU President Ed Ray, Dean of the College of Ag Sciences Sonny Ramaswamy and State Department of Ag Director, Katy Coba. Historic field day or not, hearing these speakers alone is worth the time to attend. There is much more to see and do. Bring your grandparents and grandkids; get in touch with the past to gain a taste of the future.

Pendleton Field Day, June 15

Since the Sherman Field Day on Wednesday is featuring the historical aspect, the only place to catch the current research will be at the Experiment Station Field Day of the Columbia Basin Ag Research Center in Pendleton on Tuesday, June 15. The Pendleton Field day runs differently than our Sherman Station and is worth the trip. This year gives you the added excuse to go see and hear their reports.
## Pendleton Field Day Schedule for June 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group 1 Tour</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group 2 Tour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>8:10</td>
<td>Load Busses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td><em>Camelina Production and Use</em>, Don Wysocki, OSU Extension Soil Scientist</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:35</td>
<td><em>Barley and the winter</em>, Pat Hayes, OSU Barley Breeder</td>
<td>8:55</td>
<td><em>OSU Winter Wheat Varieties Trials</em>, Mike Flowers, OSU Cereal Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25</td>
<td><em>Potential profit for segregating wheat by protein concentration</em>, Dan Long, USDA-ARS Research Leader</td>
<td>10:45</td>
<td><em>Soil and Water Conservation in a Four-year Crop Rotation</em>, John Williams, USDA-ARS, Hydrologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td><em>Soil and Water Conservation in a Four-year Crop Rotation</em>, John Williams, USDA-ARS, Hydrologist</td>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>Hosted Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>Hosted Lunch</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Load Busses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td><em>Improving N Management for Soft White Winter Wheat</em>, Steve Petrie, OSU Superintendent</td>
<td>12:05</td>
<td><em>Camelina Production and Use</em>, Don Wysocki, OSU Extension Soil Scientist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td><em>Herbicide evaluations for downy brome control</em>, Dan Ball, OSU Weed Scientist</td>
<td>1:10</td>
<td><em>Club Wheat Breeding Variety Trials</em>, Kim Campbell USDA-ARS Wheat Breeder</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:35</td>
<td>Break (refreshments available)</td>
<td>1:55</td>
<td><em>Beneficial and Pest Insects of Cereal Crops – Their Identification and Biology</em>, Mary Corp, OSU Cereal Extension Agent, Silva Rondon, OSU Entomologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40</td>
<td><em>Improving Management of Dryland Agricultural Soils</em>, Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS, Hydrologist</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Ice Cream Social (Courtesy Oregon Wheat Growers League) followed by OSU Town Hall Meeting on OSU Wheat Breeding Program and CBARC Budget</td>
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</tbody>
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Sherman Station 100th Field Day

Program and Schedule Wednesday, June 16th 2010

8:00   Gather at Sherman County Jr/Sr High School, (65912 High School Loop, Moro, OR 97039)
       Refreshments available in cafeteria

8:20   Welcome and orientation by Dr. Steve Petrie, OSU Superintendent

8:30   “The Past 100 Years of Dryland Wheat Farming” by Dr. Bill Schillinger, Dryland Research Agronomist, WSU

8:55   Travel to field demonstrations

9:10   Demonstrations of a century of crop variety development and testing

  View heritage wheat variety nursery with discussion by Matt Kolding, OSU Emeritus Plant Breeder and Mike
  Flowers, OSU Extension Cereal Specialist

  View a legacy crop nursery showing a host of different crops grown the past 100 years with historic discussion by
  Steve Petrie, OSU Superintendent

10:00  Break (refreshments)
       Cookies from heritage wheat flour (By Andrew Ross, OSU Cereal Chemist)

10:15  Demonstration of changing farming practices – from horses to horsepower
       Including horses, early D 2 Caterpillar track tractor and latest models

11:10  History and status of Sherman Station Endowment Fund,
       Ernie Moore, Chair Endowment Fund and Sherman County Wheat Grower

11:30  Sherman County Museum displays of wheat farming and grain handling equipment, and demonstration of
       stationary power equipment

12:25  Hosted Lunch (Courtesy Oregon Wheat Commission
       Including breads baked from heritage wheats (courtesy Andrew Ross)

Remarks by invited guests:
  Dr. Ed Ray, President, Oregon State University
  Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean College of Agricultural Science, OSU
  Dr. Andy Hammond, Area Director, USDA-Agricultural Research Service
  Katy Coba, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture
  Representative of Oregon Wheat Growers League
  Representative of Oregon Wheat Commission

1:30   Conclusion and Closing

Range Field Day June 29

Field Days are not just for crops! June 29 is the Union Station Field Day from 8:30 am to 4 pm in Union. Those with beef cattle or
involved with maintaining their rangelands will want to take this in.

Topics include: Grazing and multiple use values on rangelands; Interactions of ag systems with bird habitat and viability; Sage
grouse management; Cattle grazing behavior in riparian areas: Impacts of wolves on grazing behavior; The “Zumwalt Project”
influence of stocking density on ground nesting birds; plus two field trips to observe either techniques in studying cattle distribution and behavior or bird habitat, abundance and viability.

Contact the Extension Office for more information.
Savory Images June 2 –July 12

Oregon's food and agriculture are celebrated in a traveling exhibit of award-winning photos on display from June 2 through July 12th at the Wasco County Library, 722 Court Street. The Library is opened Monday thru Thursday from 10 am to 8:30; Friday from 10-6 and Saturday 10-5. The Library is closed on Sunday.

The photos are images from the pages of Oregon’s Agricultural Progress magazine and showcase the bounty of Oregon agriculture. "The exhibit is a reflection of the role Oregon State University's research and people play in sustaining our state's rich agricultural heritage," said Sonny Ramaswamy, dean of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences.

Magazine editor Peg Herring said, "Food is the handshake between urban and rural communities. Our hope is that the exhibit, along with the special food issue of the magazine, will prompt conversations across Oregon about food as a necessary – and delightful–part of life."

The exhibit is presented by OSU’s Extension and Experiment Station Communications and the College of Agricultural Sciences. Photos are by Lynn Ketchum, award-winning EESC photographer. Exhibit photos are online at: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/eesc/savoryimages/

Fresh from the earth.
Fresh farm produce is a hallmark of Oregon cuisine. The OSU Small Farms program helps connect growers with local markets, while offering education and guidance for

Where the brew begins.
Oregon's microbreweries use the small-batch brewery at OSU to test their new brews—from barley and hops to fermentation and marketing.

Beef on the Zumwalt.
OSU partners with The Nature Conservancy to enhance production of beef and conservation of grazing lands on the Zumwalt Prairie.
Quilters Wanted!

In 2011 the OSU Extension Service will be celebrating their Centennial. Join us in celebrating by lending a hand in creating an OSU Extension Centennial Quilt. Each county and program area will be asked to create a square for the quilt depicting something unique to their county or program. It can be embroidered, glued, painted, appliquéd! The quilt squares will be provided but the rest will be left up to your imagination!

Are you interested in participating? Our goal is to have the quilt top on display at the 2010 O&E Conference in November. When completed it will visit areas of the state for viewing, then be raffled off! Proceeds will go toward any expenses and the Extension Professional Development Fund. Join in the fun as we kick off the centennial year! Contact Janet Drollinger, janet.drollinger@oregonstate.edu if you would like to participate.

IFP Site for Weather Info

During the Wasco Co. Crop Tour last month, the weather reporting system used by many orchardists based on locally collected data was mentioned as a reliable system.

To access the info, go to: http://www.integratedfruitproduction.com/IFPNET/tabid/92/Default.aspx

If you just go to peek, you can receive current data, but if you sign in as a subscriber, you get full access to all the current, cumulative and historical information, plus mapping and pest models. You can click on any of the participating reporting sites in Wasco, Hood River, Crook and Sherman County to get as close to home as you can.

Hazardous Waste Events June 19 and June 26

Your last chances before summer to rid your house and garage of hazardous waste materials, sprays, unused, unknown household and yard and garden supplies are June 19 in The Dalles and June 26 in Tygh Valley.

Local waste collectors are opening their facilities for these free collection events which insure keeping hazardous materials out of traditional landfills. These events are committed to disposal by proper means and in a safe manner.

Acceptable items include OIL based paints (not latex), yard and garden products, household cleaners and chemicals, old gas and kerosene, pool and spa chemicals, hobby solvents and glues, propane bottles and tanks, dry cell and lithium batteries, fluorescent and CFL bulbs, thermostats and thermometers, and fire extinguishers.

Do not bring your latex paints yet. The new state collection program is just about to be announced and we will offer that service when the outlet is in place. Latex paints are not hazardous. If you have a can with just a little leftover latex paint, your other option is to remove the lid and let it dry, then dispose of the container in your regular garbage disposal. Latex paints can also be mixed to use as base paints in projects or just hang on to them until this summer when the new program for collection and re-use is in place.

Wheat Growers Meet June 14

The Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) and the Oregon Wheat Commission (OWC) meet June 14 at the Pendleton Red Lion. The OWC starts at 8:30 am and the OWGL meets at 1:45. In between is a hosted lunch where both candidates for governor have been invited to speak. Both groups use this annual meeting to hash out details, budgets and policies. These impact you and your bottom line directly; hence you are encouraged to attend and participate.

Then stay overnight and take in the Pendleton Field Day on Tuesday.